GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3171
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE IN WESTERN GHAT
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing ecological imbalance in Western Ghat;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the ecology of Western Ghat?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) Western Ghats are characterised by unique and distinct geology, topography, climate, ecology, species richness and endemism, and are considered ecologically sensitive. Recognising the ecological importance of Western Ghats, the Planning Commission, Government of India is implementing the Western Ghat Development Programme. This programme has an integrated development approach based on compact watershed basin, eco-development and meeting the basic needs of people for food, fodder, fuel and safe drinking water. Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a number of programmes for conservation of rich biological diversity of the region. These programmes, inter- alia , include survey and identification of floral and faunal species; in-situ conservation through protected area network consisting of Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.